

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1. Claims 15-20 remain withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

A full set of pending claims is presented herewith:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A pneumatic radial ply runflat tire comprising a tread, two insert reinforced sidewalls, two inextensible annular beads, a radial ply structure having one or more radial plies, and a belt structure located between the tread and the radial ply structure, the runflat tire characterized by:

a fabric underlay deployed between the belt structure and the radial ply structure for supporting tensile loads during both normal-inflated and runflat operating conditions, the fabric underlay having an elastic modulus between 1 and 15 GPa and comprising high-modulus reinforcing cords being aligned at a cord angle of about 0 degrees to 5 degrees with respect to the equatorial plane of the tire, the fabric underlay being comprising a helically wound ribbon of cord-reinforced rubber wherein the ribbon is butt joined against laterally adjacent portions of the ribbon without overlapping; and

the high-modulus reinforcing cords of the fabric underlay are made of high-modulus material selected from the group consisting of polyester, nylon, rayon, aramid and glass.

2. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The tire of claim 1 in which the fabric underlay comprises opposing marginal edges which extend laterally beyond lateral edges of the belt structure.

4. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The tire of claim 1 in which the fabric underlay is located on the tensile side of the neutral bending axis of the combined belt structure, fabric underlay and ply structure.

5. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The tire of claim 4 in which the cords of the fabric underlay are circumferentially oriented and are prestressed in tension during manufacturing of the tire.

8. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The tire of claim 1 in which a fabric overlay is disposed between the belt structure and the tread.

9. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The tire of claim 1 wherein at least one of the radial plies is reinforced by essentially inextensible cords.